

Hinduism Artefacts Collection

Guidance Notes for Teachers

See, feel and discuss a range of Hindu artefacts to enhance faith learning. Use this selection of artefacts as a starting point for any Hindu topic, including religious festivals, daily worship and more. Create cross-curricular links and promote hands-on exploration.



Contents:

- 1 x Pooja Thali
- 1 x Storybook
- 1 x Money Envelope
- 1 x Greeting Card
- 1 x Mythological Picture Postcard Album
- 1 x Rangoli Diya Candle Box
- 1 x Non-Woven Bag
- 1 x Ganesh Plastic Figure
- 2 x Henna Impressions
- 1 x Poster

Please note contents and designs may vary.



The resources in the Hinduism Artefacts Collection shown in the pictures on the left can be used in KS1, KS2 and KS3 classrooms.

- Provide an engaging artefact handling opportunity with high-quality resources.
- Create cross-curricular links and cover elements of the RE, Geography, Art and Design and PE curriculum.
- Introduce the resources during whole class teaching and provide time for hands-on exploration in small groups.
- Enhance classroom displays and promote discussion by displaying the items.
- Add the resources to tabletop areas and promote independent investigation.
- Put faith learning into context by using as aids for teaching Hindu festivals, daily worship and more.



Activity 1 – Artefact Identification

- Use the information below to identify and name each of the artefacts.
- Give time for pupils to explore the artefacts.
- How are the artefacts used and what do they represent?

Activity 2 – Fact Sharing

- Use the information below and the *Explore further* suggestions, to create fact files about Hinduism.
- Put the fact files together to create one shared piece of information.
- Find out if someone in the school or wider community would like to visit and share their experiences of Hinduism.

Activity 3 – Geography Investigation

- Hinduism originated near the Indus River in India. Use a world map to locate India.
- How did Hinduism evolve and spread?
- Research India further. Think about the flag, culture, food, history and significant landmarks.

Activity 4 – PE and Wellbeing

- Talk about the importance and purpose of yoga in Hinduism.
- Provide a safe space for those pupils who would like to participate.
- Allow time for reflection and personal mantras to be created.

Activity 5 – Art and Design

- Create rangoli patterns using chalks, coloured sand and flowers.
- Design and make a clay diya lamp.
- Design and make money envelopes.
- Use hand templates to design mehndi patterns.

Information Points to be used for demonstration and discussion

➤ Gods, Goddesses and Deities

For Hindus, Brahman is God or the Supreme Being and they believe that this is beyond human understanding. There is not one representation of God, but an understanding that it is multiple concepts at the same time. For this reason, Hindus worship many different deities (gods and goddesses). Shiva, also known as 'The Destroyer of Evil', is often shown with a third eye to represent his wisdom. Hindus believe that Shiva destroys the evil within the universe so that it can be recreated. Lakshmi is one of the most popular goddesses of Hindu mythology and is known as the goddess of wealth and purity. Hindus believe that Lakshmi bestows good fortune and success upon those who work hard and seek help sincerely. Ganesha is considered as the God of Intellect, Remover of Obstacles and Lord of Beginnings. Hindus pray to Ganesha when embarking on something for the first time, as they believe he bestows wisdom and good fortune.

Explore further – Who are the three principal gods worshipped by Hindus?



➤ Diwali

The festival of Diwali is celebrated over 5 days, normally in October or November. Different areas of India have different origin stories for the festival, but essentially it is a celebration of good over evil, of light triumphing over darkness.

In northern India it is a celebration of the story of Rama and Sita. Prince Rama and his wife Sita were banished from their home by the king. Along with Rama's brother, Lakshmana, they were sent away into exile for 14 years. During this time, they lived in a forest, but nearby was the demon king, Ravana. He kidnapped Sita and took her away in his chariot. Sita had cleverly left a trail of her jewellery which Rama and Lakshmana were able to follow. Whilst following the trail they met the monkey king, Hanuman, who agreed to help them find Sita. Hanuman found Sita imprisoned on an island that could not be reached. Hanuman's army of monkeys were called upon and began to build a bridge and soon all the animals in the world came to help. Once they reached the other side a terrible battle took place. Rama killed Ravana with a magic arrow and the world rejoiced. Lamps were lit to guide Rama and Sita home and welcome them back. During the Diwali celebrations people light their homes and outside areas with clay diya lamps. The word Diwali means 'rows of lighted lamps'.

Explore further – What happens on each of the 5 days of the festival?

➤ Henna

Henna designs are called mehndi patterns and they are created using a paste, which is applied to the hands and feet. It is a tradition to paint bride's hands and feet in mehndi for the wedding ceremony and it is also used to celebrate Hindu festivals such as Diwali, Karva Chauth, Vat Purnima and many more. Patterns and images can include circles, diamonds, squares, triangles and mandalas.

Explore further – Use online resources to show videos of henna being applied.

➤ Pooja Thali

For Hindus worship is primarily an individual act as it involves making a personal offering to the deity. However, Hindus may attend a temple or worship at home with their family. Hindu worship, known as puja, involves images (*murtis*), prayers (*mantras*) and diagrams of the universe (*yantras*). A pooja thali acts as focal point for ceremonies and represents the devotee's reverence, devotion and gratitude towards the deities. The components in a pooja thali include powders such as turmeric, flowers, incense sticks, nuts and leaves of the betel plant, rice grains and sacred thread.

Explore further – Use online resources to look at examples of different pooja thali.

➤ Money Envelopes

Diwali is a popular time for gifts to be shared, and money is often gifted in beautifully decorated envelopes. They are also traditionally used at Indian weddings, as money is the preferred gift, rather than presents.

Explore further – Why is one additional coin added to the money envelope?



➤ Yoga

Yoga is a Hindu discipline which holds great importance in a Hindu's spiritual journey. Whilst one form of yoga does consist of movements and meditation, the act of yoga is much broader and includes a variety of spiritual and physical practices intended to encourage mental and bodily wellbeing. 'Om' is considered to be the most sacred mantra to chant when practicing yoga and is thought to represent the entire universe.

Explore further – Develop personalised mantras to use during yoga sessions.